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ABSTRACT

Part of a family of reports on the status of children researched by a bipartisan polling team, this publication presents voter profiles on Americans' opinions on the health, education, safety, and security of U.S. children. The results of a national survey, confirmed by representative samples of the electorate in 12 states, suggest intense and widespread concern about the deteriorating status of children. The broad array of worries that voters express about children are likely to encourage political platforms that cut across traditional demographic divisions, encompassing the concerns of both middle class and poor families. Majorities of nearly every subgroup of voters say they would be more likely to vote for a children's candidate. The public clearly wants its political leaders to address both the affordability of a college education and the basic needs of children. While concern over the economy and tax sensitivity is likely to remain an impediment to new tax revenues for children's programs, current public opinion calls for new priorities to favor children. The survey results are illustrated in eight charts, and the report concludes with a display of the entire survey instrument with summary responses. (LB)

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STATE OF THE CHILD

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mericans' opinions on the health, education, safety and security of our children prepared by the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions for the Coalition for America's Children

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Coalition for America's Children

Who's for Kids ✓

and Who's Just Kidding ☐

THE STATE OF THE CHILD

NACHRI:
Chairman: Alan W. Brass
President: Robert H. Sweeney
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The State of the Child

National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions for the Coalition for America's Children

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

The State of the Child is part of a family of reports on the status of children researched for the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) by the bipartisan polling team of Greenberg/Lake, The Analysis Group; and The Tarrance Group. In late November 1991, over 6,000 phone interviews were conducted, resulting in profiles of voters nationally and in twelve states. Together, these profiles provide one of the most comprehensive analyses to date of Americans' opinions on the health, education, safety and security of our children.

The State of the Child reports are an outgrowth of NACHRI's commitment to document the changing status of American children. In 1989, NACHRI released its Profile of Child Health in the United States, a report that dramatized the declining status of America's children by translating complex health indicators and social phenomena into language the American public could easily grasp. The extraordinary national attention that the report received was mirrored at the local level, as children's hospitals around the country weighed in with their own assessments of the status of children in their communities. In several instances, the Profile served to catalyze advocacy programs at children's hospitals which have gone on to educate the public about the tragic interplay of social and medical pathologies which are taking their toll on our children in cities and towns all across the country.

Since that time, numerous new studies have assessed the status of children. From the Kids Count Data Book (Center for the Study of Social Policy, 1991) to reports released by the Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty, the story of the declining status of children in America has been updated and kept in the public mind through increased media attention.

Drawing from national survey data in the public domain and supplementing this with a national poll of adult Americans, NACHRI's Kids' Clout (1990) was able to show that Americans knew kids were in trouble, that they wanted to see more attention to children's problems but that they often failed to understand the specifics of child-oriented programs or to connect children's needs to appropriate government responsibility.

This latest series of reports derives from the belief that there are, in fact, two ''states of the child.'' One is the quantifiable descriptive data which document the changing status of children's health and well-being in America. The other, equally important ''state of the child,'' results from the extent to which the public not only knows this data but is also willing to connect this social problem to a mandate for government action.

It is our belief that, unless both ''states of the child'' are measured continually by children's advocates, progress on the children's front cannot continue. Put simply, if the public doesn't trust government to do the right thing for children, they are unlikely to push for government solutions to children's problems. If Americans feel that their concerns about children are essentially ''private'' observations and specific to their city, class, race or party, then the charge to change public priorities to favor children will remain merely a deep and unexpressed anxiety in the public consciousness.

This report gives voice to the concerns of voters across this nation, concerns about the health, education, safety and security of our children. *The State of the Child* reflects an electorate eager to hear solutions to what is widely perceived as the deteriorating condition of children in this country.

NACHRI and its member hospitals are grateful to the polling firms of Greenberg/Lake, The Analysis Group; and The Tarrance Group for their fine direction in the pursuit of this study and their careful analysis of the findings. Thanks is due as well to the Coalition for America's Children, a project of the M.B. Fund, for their encouragement in the development of this study.

Robert H. Sweeney
President, NACHRI
January 1992

Children Top the Priority List

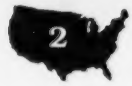
Children are emerging on the national agenda as the unifying theme of a powerful magnet of issues which attract voters of diverse backgrounds. Faced with failing schools, unaffordable health care, random violence on the streets, and a stagnant economy, Americans are becoming increasingly frustrated with the paralysis on Capitol Hill. Voters from across the political and economic spectrum want to see a government responsive to these problems, especially as they affect children. Voters worry, moreover, that politicians' neglect of these growing problems is damaging children and, therefore, the future of this country.

These are not isolated or narrow concerns. Most voters believe the problems that face children affect us all. Many voters feel these concerns personally, in the context of their own children's lives and in the lives of children in their state. There is a growing national consensus that government should take action on behalf of children, reordering spending priorities and directing more existing tax revenues into children's programs.

So intense is voters' concern over the status of children in America today that candidates for office will be hard-pressed to avoid the topic. Candidates who expect to do well, both at the state level and nationally, are going to have to address children's issues sooner or later with concrete proposals and be prepared, once in office, to account for their prioritization of tax dollars for children.

According to conventional wisdom, voters are primarily interested in securing lower taxes, making health care affordable, and improving the economy. Recent polling, however, indicates that voters also want the government to guarantee children health care, quality education, safe neighborhoods and economic security. Americans want to make children a national priority, and they are willing to hold politicians accountable by voting for those legislators who will do more than simply kiss babies. They want to see government work for children.

Voters want to make children a top priority for their tax dollars, even at the expense of other popular government programs. Most survey research to date has focused on whether or not



voters want government to do more for children, as if there were no trade-off involved. Recognizing that the current mood of the American electorate is to resist increased taxes and spending, this survey attempted to evaluate spending priorities within the existing budgetary framework. In overwhelming numbers, voters demonstrate that they want children to be a top priority for government spending, even when compared with such tough choices as national health insurance, fighting crime and drugs, job training and economic development, lower taxes, protecting Social Security, cleaning the environment, military spending, and aid to foreign countries.

Sixty-one percent of Americans list guaranteeing all children health care, quality education, safe neighborhoods, and economic security as one of their top three priorities for their tax dollars. That is 14 points higher than their next choice, national health insurance (47 percent), and higher than fighting crime and drugs (42 percent). Even in looking only at voters' first priority, children top the list (24 percent), followed by national health insurance (23 percent).

Table One – Top Priority for Tax Dollars (1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice combined)	
Guarantee all children health care, quality education, safe neighborhoods, and economic security	61%
Provide national health insurance	47%
Fight crime and drugs	42%
Job training and economic development	33%
Lower taxes	32%
Protecting Social Security	28%
Clean the environment	25%
Military spending	8%
Aid to foreign countries	3%

Although voters from across the spectrum want to make children a priority, voters most likely to support children's programs include working women (76 percent), younger women (75 percent), young college-educated voters (71 percent), Black voters (74 percent), parents of children in public schools (73 percent) especially parents of younger schoolchildren (79 percent), and parents of children under five (77 percent). Democrats are slightly more supportive of making children a priority (66 percent), but a majority of Independents (59 percent) and Republicans (56 percent) also want to make children's programs the top priority for government spending.

Relatively less supportive are older men and women, Republican men, and voters without children. Still, in only one group (voters over 64 years old) does less than a majority (47 percent) rank children among their top three priorities. In this one group, children trail more personally relevant concerns, like national health insurance and Social Security.

Support for Children's Candidates

Voters have heard enough rhetoric; they want candidates to take a real stand on children's issues. This research suggests that voters are sufficiently concerned about the status of their children that with some encouragement, this concern could crystallize into a "children's vote" cast by adults on behalf of those too young to vote. Presidential contenders and state-wide candidates alike should note that 91 percent of voters believe it is important (and 59 percent believe it is very important) that candidates for local, state or national office have a children's platform. Two-thirds (67 percent) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports increased spending for children's programs, even if that spending requires an increase in their taxes. Among those voters who consider it most important that candidates have a children's platform, 82 percent are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports increased spending for children.

Majorities of nearly every subgroup of voters say they would be more likely to vote for a children's candidate, including self-identified Democrats (76 percent), Independents (58 percent) Republicans (61 percent), and even a majority of conservative Republicans, who tend to be the most tax-sensitive voters (56 percent). The attraction of children's issues is sufficiently powerful to cut across partisan identification, appealing especially to women and younger swing voters. Those most likely to vote for a real children's candidate include working women (78 percent), younger women (80 percent), Black voters (83 percent), and younger college-educated voters (78 percent).

Table Two – Support Children's Candidate Even if it Increased Taxes	
Much more likely to support	19
More likely to support	48
No difference	11
Less likely to support	14
Much less likely to support	7

Those voters who are withholding support for a children's candidate are hesitating largely because of their opposition to increased taxes. Candidates would do well, then, to focus on reordering spending priorities, over raising taxes. While the least tax-sensitive[1] voters, comprising 46 percent of the electorate, endorse a children's candidate by an overwhelming margin (90-6 percent), the most tax-sensitive voters (only 13 percent of the electorate) soundly reject a children's candidate (58-17 percent). Voters who are moderately tax-sensitive (41 percent of the electorate) support a children's candidate, 58-27 percent.

[1] Tax sensitivity was determined by comparing responses to a series of tax increase proposals. Voters are considered very tax sensitive if they support two or fewer proposals (13 percent of the electorate); somewhat tax sensitive if they support three to five tax proposals (41 percent of the electorate); and not tax sensitive if they support six to eight proposals (46 percent of the electorate).

Children's Declining Status

Voters do not need to be convinced that children are in trouble. They want to re-position children as a primary concern for the country because of the deterioration they perceive in children's current status and future prospects. Nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of adults believe children have a tougher time growing up today than they had. Voters also believe children's status across the nation and in their own state has worsened over the last five years (70 and 65 percent, respectively).

Voters worry about a number of problems facing children; and their concern for children is surprisingly consistent and intense across the electorate. A majority of voters worry about the declining quality of education (71 percent worry "almost all the time" or "a lot of the time"); children who are living in poverty (70 percent); children who aren't safe in their own neighborhoods (68 percent); the expense of a college education (66 percent); children who aren't provided with basic necessities (62 percent); children who return to empty homes after school (60 percent); children whose families can't afford health insurance for them (55 percent); and their own children's opportunities to get ahead (51 percent).

Of these issues, the most intense concerns, the issues that voters worry about "all the time" are: children who aren't safe in their own neighborhoods (38 percent); the expense of a college education (36 percent); and children who are living in poverty (34 percent worry all the time). These are broad-based concerns that voters feel could affect almost any family – including their own. This intensity of feeling adds to the potential power of a children's agenda.

Voters are less personally worried that families are falling apart and nobody is helping them stay together (47 percent), and that pregnant mothers aren't getting the health care they need to make sure their child is healthy (34 percent).

Table Three – Percent Who Worry ...	
That the quality of education is declining for our children in public schools.	71%
That there are so many children living in poverty.	70%
That children are not safe in their own neighborhoods.	68%
That a college education is becoming too expensive for most families to afford.	66%
That children are not provided with the basics that they need in health care, food, and education.	62%
That many children have no place to go after school and often go home to empty homes.	60%
That many families can not afford to buy health insurance for their children.	55%
That my children won't have opportunities to get ahead and have a good job and a home.	51%
That families are falling apart and nobody is helping them stay together.	47%
Pregnant mothers aren't getting the health care they need to make sure their child is healthy.	34%

Not surprisingly, voters most supportive of changing priorities to help children also tend to be those voters who worry most about children: working women, homemakers, younger women, voters under 50, Black and Hispanic voters, parents, especially parents of younger children, and Democratic as well as Republican women. These are the core constituents for a children's agenda.

While all voters express intense concern about these issues, voters naturally tend to worry more about specific issues that affect them personally. For example, voters with children under five are more likely to worry about the declining quality of education (78 percent, 44 percent worry almost all the time), as are parents with children already in the public school system, (78 percent, 43 percent worry almost all the time). Parents of adolescents are more likely to worry about the expense of a college education (74 percent, 44 percent worry almost all the time). Still, all voters, not just parents, are expressing fear and concern about children today.

A Consistent Mandate Across the States

Voters want their children to do better. A striking 74 percent believe it is *very important* for their state to rank in the top ten nationally in terms of providing health care and education for children. This support rises to 80 percent among working women, 85 percent among homemakers, 82 percent among younger women, 81 percent among college-educated women, 91 percent among Black voters, 81 percent among Hispanic voters, 83 percent among Democratic women, 77 percent among Republican women, 80 percent among parents of children under five, and 80 percent among parents of adolescents.

The State of the Child instrument was used to measure consistency of public attitudes toward children across the electorate, with representative samples in 12 states added to the national profile. Strong majorities of voters in all 12 states polled – Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin – wanted to see their state perform better for children. And, while regional variations can be discerned in the choice of children's issues most pressing to that state, support for a reprioritization of government funds to favor children was consistent and strong across all 12 states.

Making Government Work for Children

While voters want real action and real change, they have little faith that government will do what is best for children. Half (50 percent) say they are not at all confident that government will do what is right for children most of the time; 43 percent say they are only somewhat confident. Only four percent indicate they are very confident government will do what is right for children. Ironically, those voters who most want to see government action are also those who have the least confidence that government currently has children's best interests at heart. Thus, 53 percent of those who rank children's issues as their top priority, and 52 percent who are much more likely to vote for a candidate who supports increased funding for children, say they are not at all confident that government will do the right thing.

Voters want to see significant improvements in society's commitment to children, and they are eager for action to reach these goals. Nearly all (95 percent, 51 percent strongly) agree children should have a right to affordable health care, public education, protection from abuse and crime, and freedom from hunger and homelessness. Even more (97 percent, 53 percent strongly) agree that children should be able to see a doctor if they need to, whether or not their family can pay for it. Even the most tax-sensitive voters overwhelmingly endorse these goals. These aspects of the children's agenda have almost become valence issues, norms that define policy goals. Voters may disagree somewhat in how to reach the goals, but there is little disagreement on the high priority that children's problems should be accorded.

Voters want to demand that government take the lead in improving the lives of children and in making these goals a reality. An overwhelming 85 percent agree that political leaders are not doing enough to help solve the problems facing children today. And finally, 81 percent agree the government should help families stay together by providing tax relief to families with children and fostering other policies that help, rather than burden, average working families.

Children were once considered a private concern, not the realm of government. Voters have clearly moved children's needs into the public arena. They want government to act on behalf of children and to make children a top priority. There is a potential movement for children that, once tapped, will compete with the most intense rising concerns for taxes, crime, health care, etc.

Children and the Public Purse

What then limits the demand for children's programs? Voters' intense concern about the problems facing children makes them willing to increase taxes to pay for children's programs, but in the current tax sensitive environment, most would rather reorder spending priorities and direct a greater share of existing revenues into children's programs.

As American families find it increasingly difficult to make ends meet and lose faith in government spending, they resist taxes that would further squeeze their family's income. They are eager to tax those whom they feel have not been paying their fair share for children. Nationwide, voters show the same willingness we have seen in a number of states to increase sin taxes and taxes on the wealthy for children. Voters solidly support increasing taxes for families earning over $250,000 per year (83 percent), and corporations (69 percent), and increasing the sales tax on alcohol (80 percent) to pay for children's programs. At the same time, 82 percent of voters support a proposal requiring states to review tax breaks annually to determine whether they can be altered to provide additional tax revenue for children.

Voters show a significant drop in their support for increased taxes when the proposed taxes hit their own pocketbooks. By a margin of 39 to 56 percent, voters oppose an increase in their income taxes of only $10 per month. Similarly, by a margin of 44 to 52 percent, they oppose a one cent increase in their sales tax to pay for children's programs. Even voters who want to make children their top priority only marginally support these increases (53 to 43 percent support an increased sales tax and 53 to 42 percent support an income tax increase). Despite their real concerns for children, voters are sensitive in their own finances. Voters split (45 to 45 percent) on a proposal to pay $100 a year to fund health care for uninsured children – one of their top concerns. Again, even among voters who make children a top priority, only a bare majority of 52 percent (39 percent oppose) favor this proposal.

Those voters who are most sensitive to tax increases are older men, college-educated men, older college-educated voters, Republicans, especially Republican men, and Independents.

Voters are willing to reorder priorities for children, however. Two-thirds (66 percent) of voters support a proposal similar to an initiative recently passed in San Francisco that requires the government to reserve 2.5 percent of existing property tax revenue for children.

Americans across the country want children to be a national priority. They want to take action to protect not only their own children, but other children whom they perceive to be suffering from deepening social problems. Finally, voters are willing to hold politicians accountable by electing those legislators who will make government work for children.

Conclusion

The results of this national survey, confirmed by representative samples of the electorate in 12 states, suggest that candidates at all levels of the political process are going to hear more about the needs of children this election year. Voters' intense and widespread concerns over the deteriorating status of children in the states and the nation will increase the pressure on politicians to develop children's platforms.

The broad array of worries which voters express about children should encourage platforms that cut across traditional demographic divisions, encompassing the concerns of both middle class and poor families. The public clearly wants its political leaders to address both the affordability of a college education and the basic needs of children by offering realistic proposals. Even voters skeptical of government programs want to see their elected officials respond to children with programs that work. While concern over the economy and tax sensitivity is likely to remain an impediment to new tax revenues for children's programs, the public's current mood dictates a reprioritization of current tax dollars to favor children.

In sum, there exists today a national consensus over the declining status of children in America and the need to reorient government to address children's problems. The consensus over children stands to play a pivotal role in electoral politics on both sides of the political aisle as candidates seek to align themselves with those issues most likely to command a powerful hold on the hearts and minds of American voters.

Top Priority For Tax Dollars
(Combined 1st, 2nd, 3rd Priority)
National

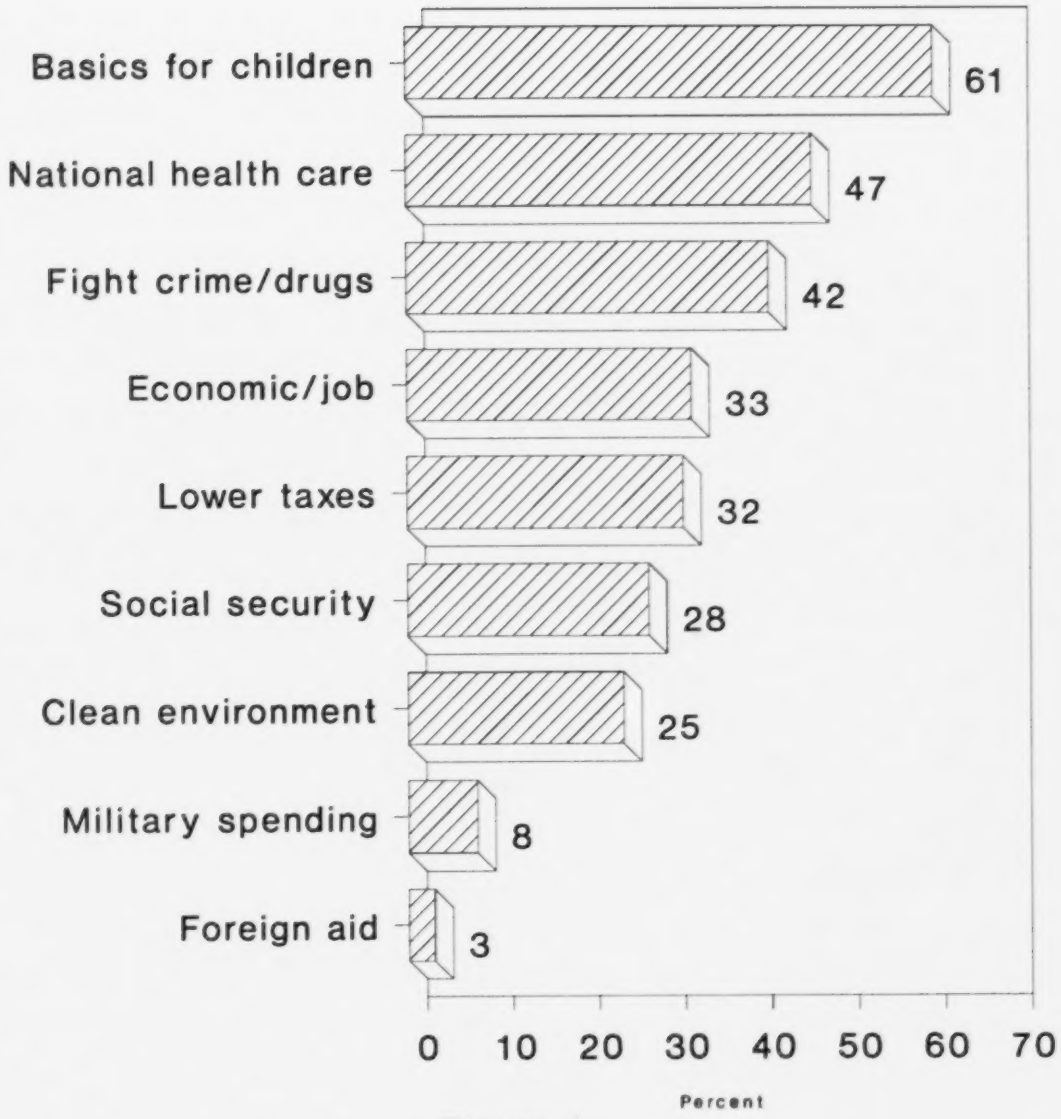


Figure 1

Importance For Candidates To Have Children's Platform
National

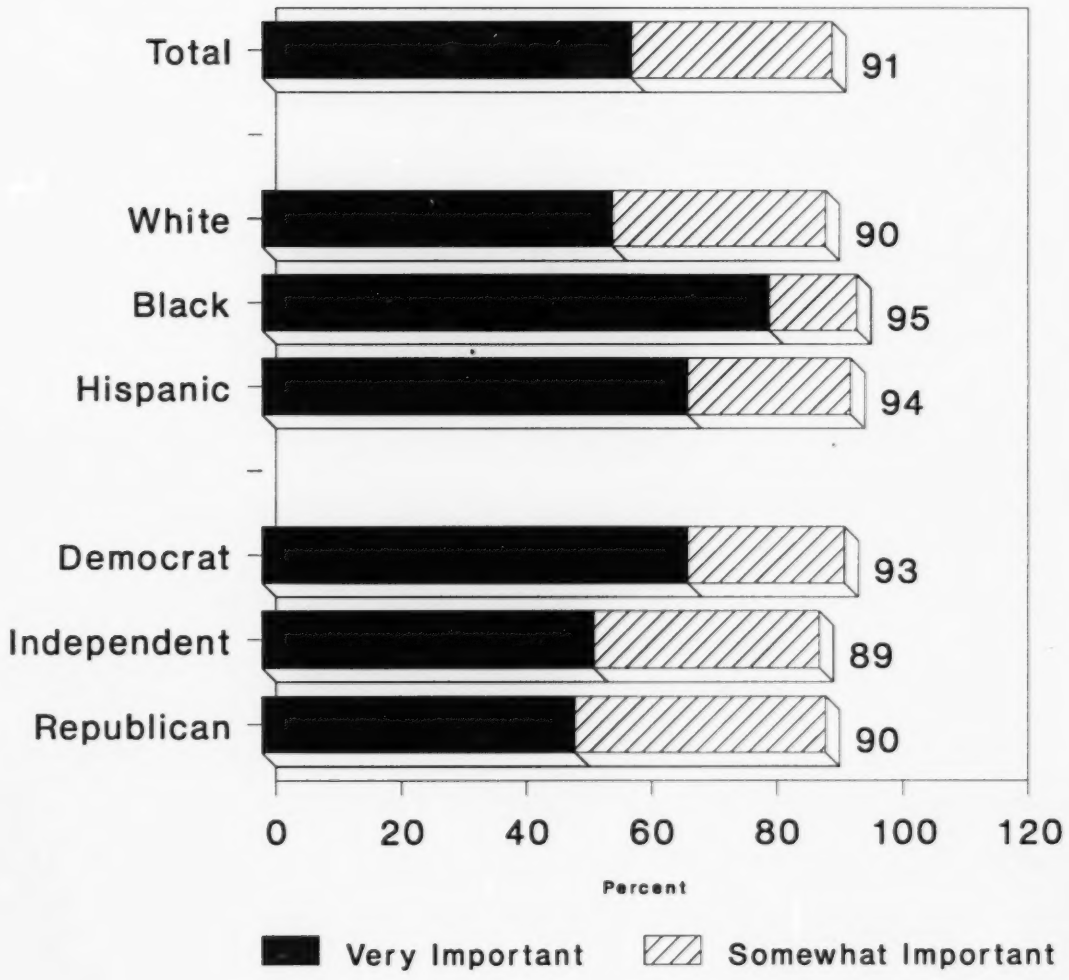


Figure 2

Importance For Candidates To Have Children's Platform

National

By Gender & Region

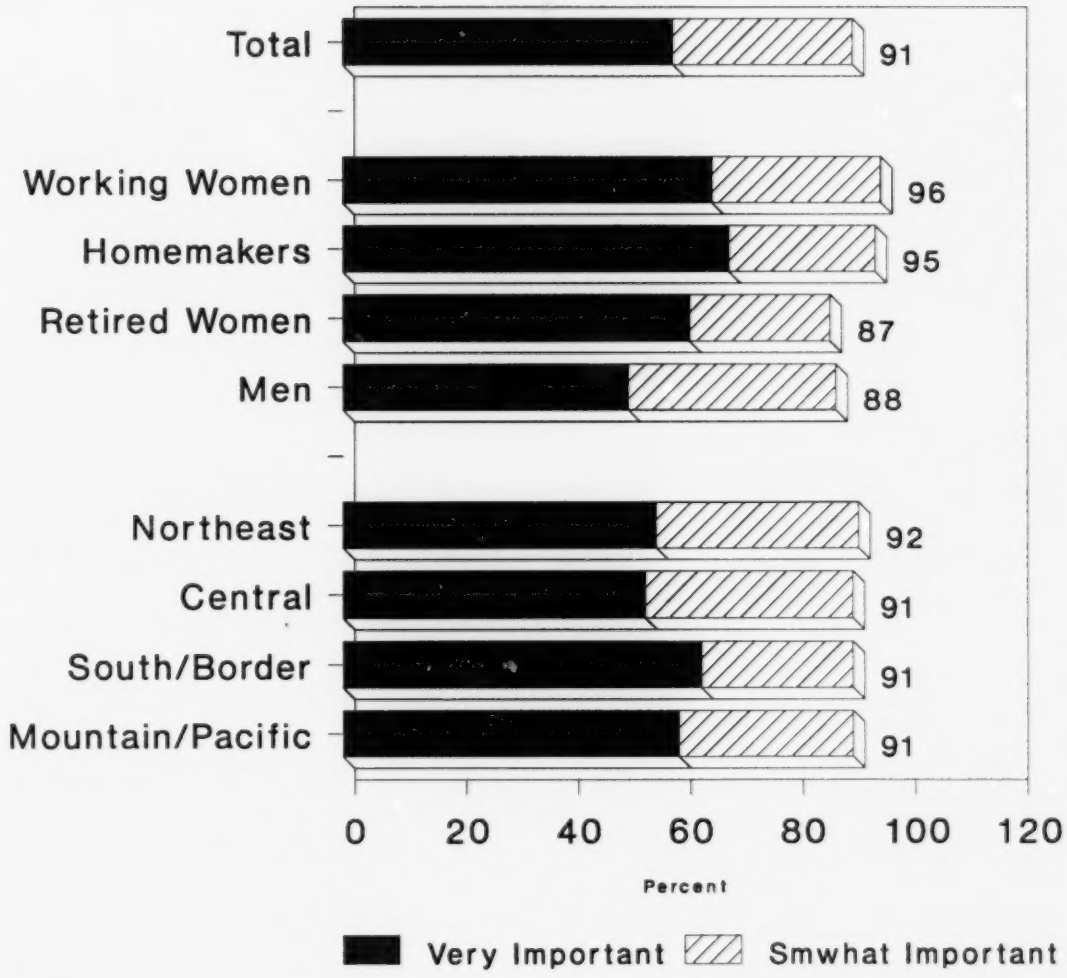


Figure 2a

More Likely Vote Children's Candidate Even If It Meant Increased Taxes

National

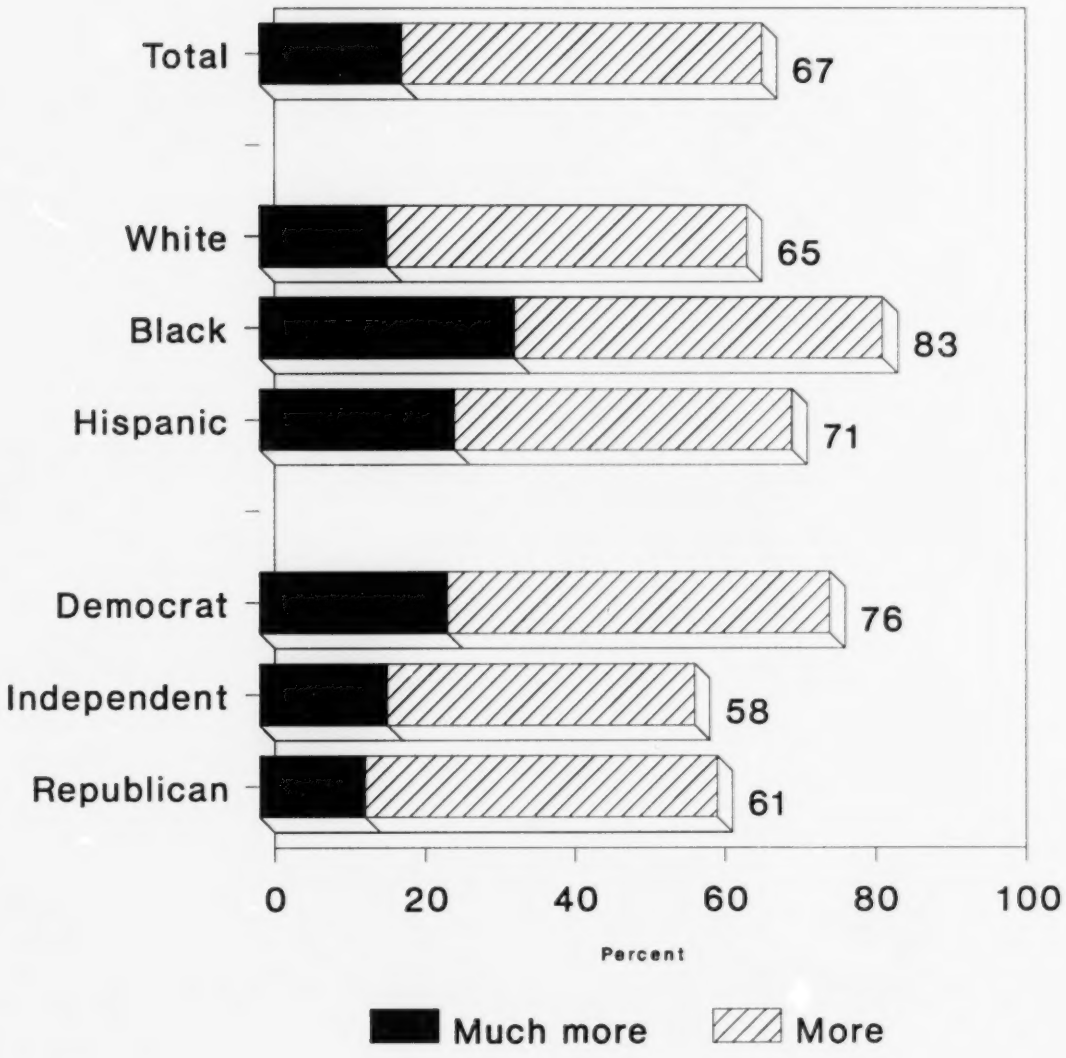


Figure 3

More Likely Vote Children's Candidate Even If It Meant Increased Taxes

National

By Gender & Region

Figure 3a

Situation For Children In Nation Over Last 5 Years
By Race

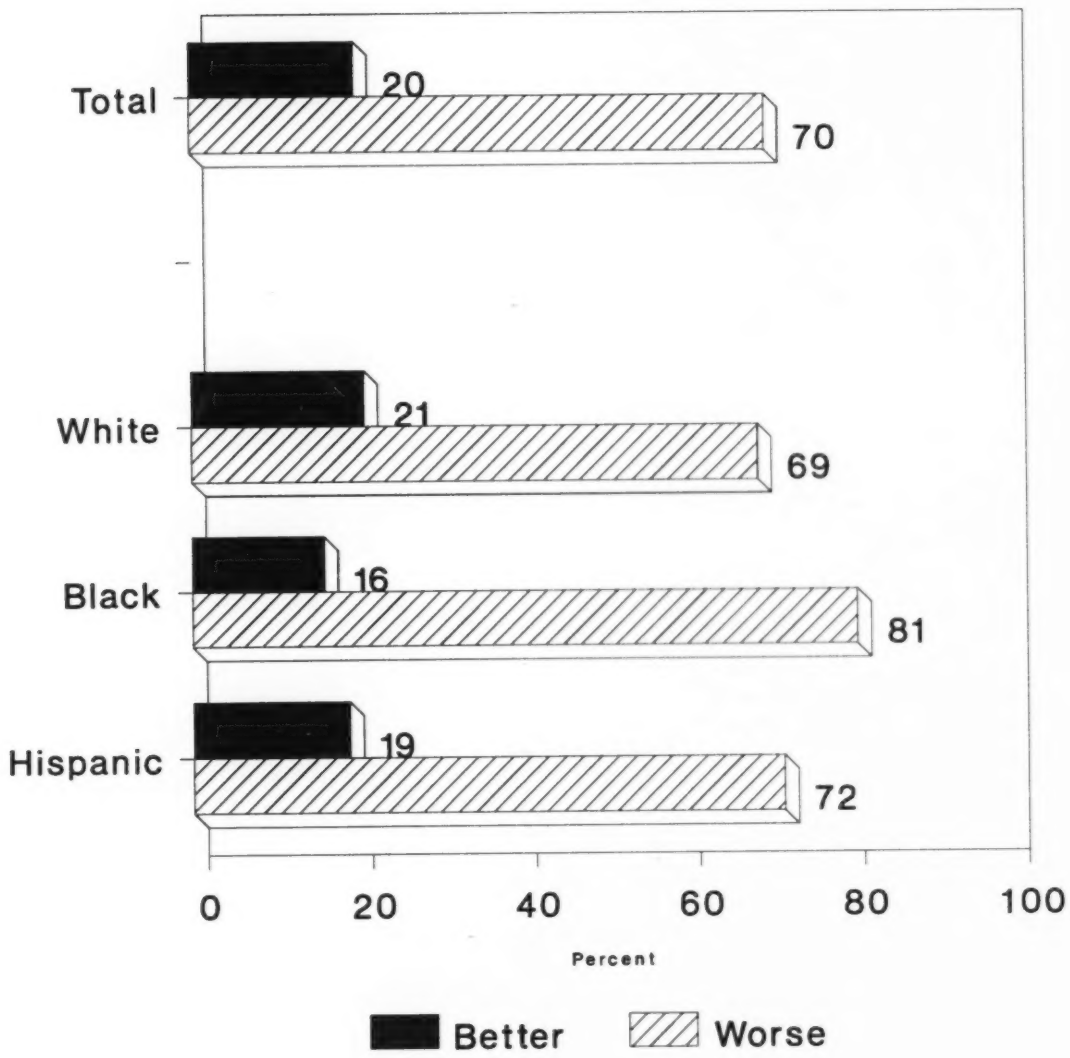


Figure 4

Situation For Children In Nation Over Last 5 Years
By Region

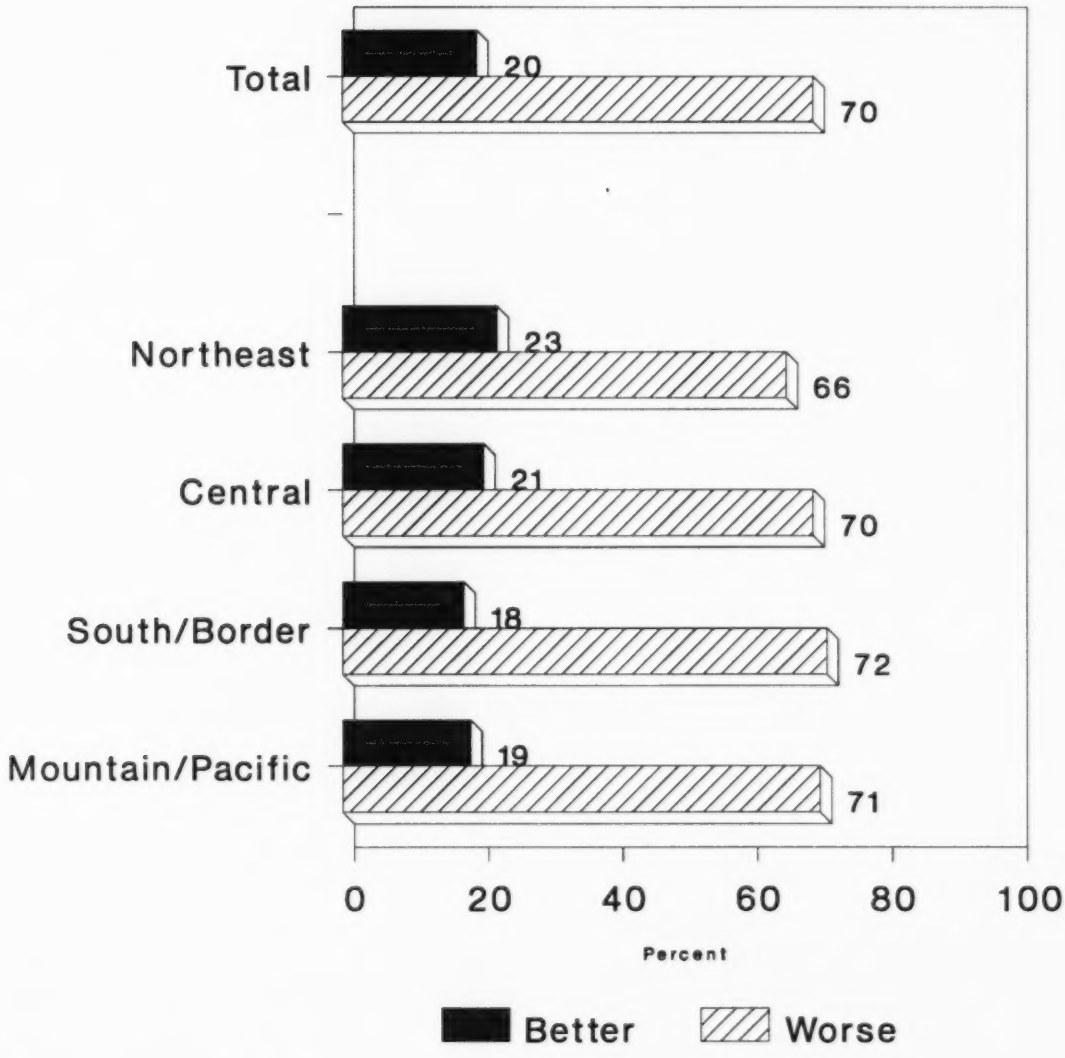


Figure 4a

Situation For Children In Nation Over Last 5 Years
By Gender

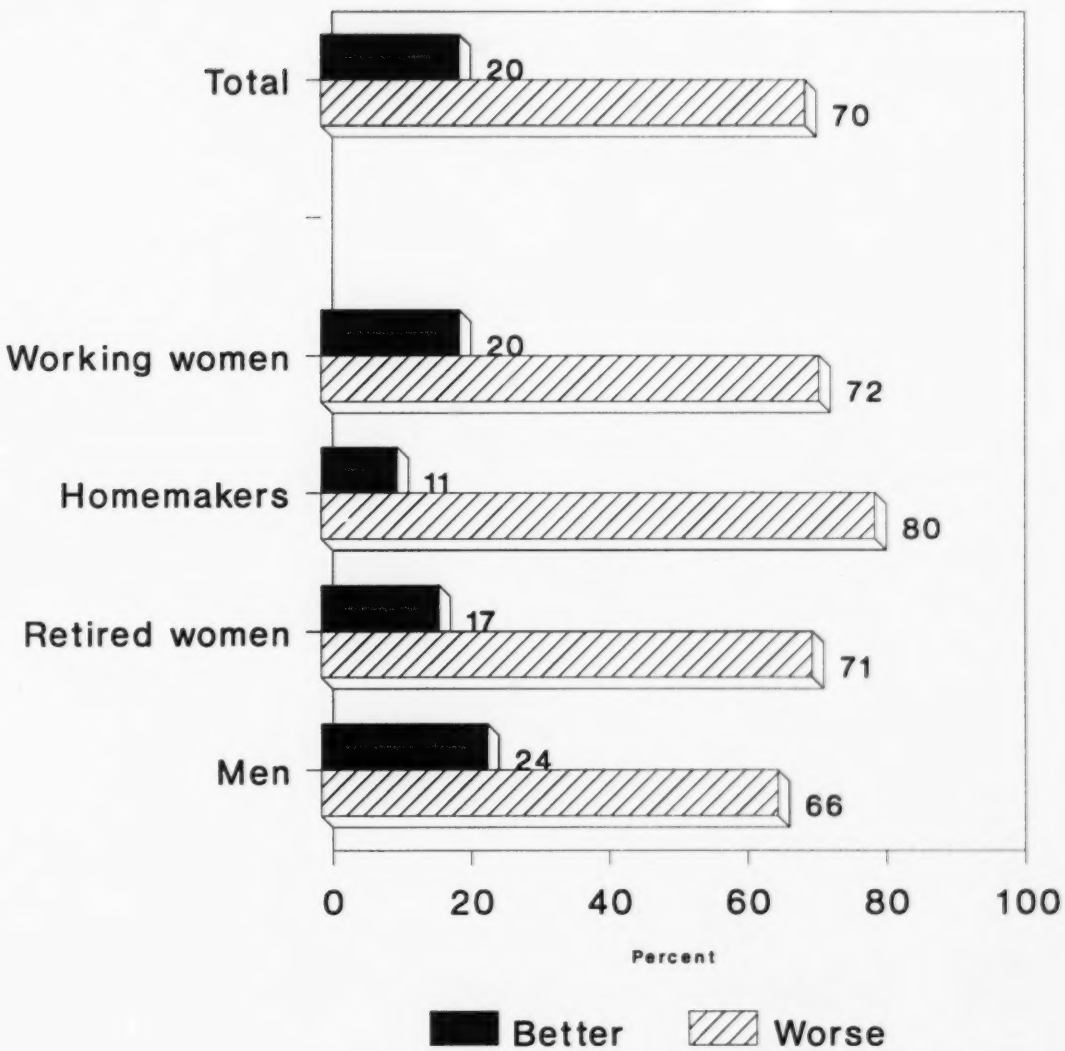


Figure 4b

Situation For Children In Respondent's Own State Over Last 5 Years
By Region

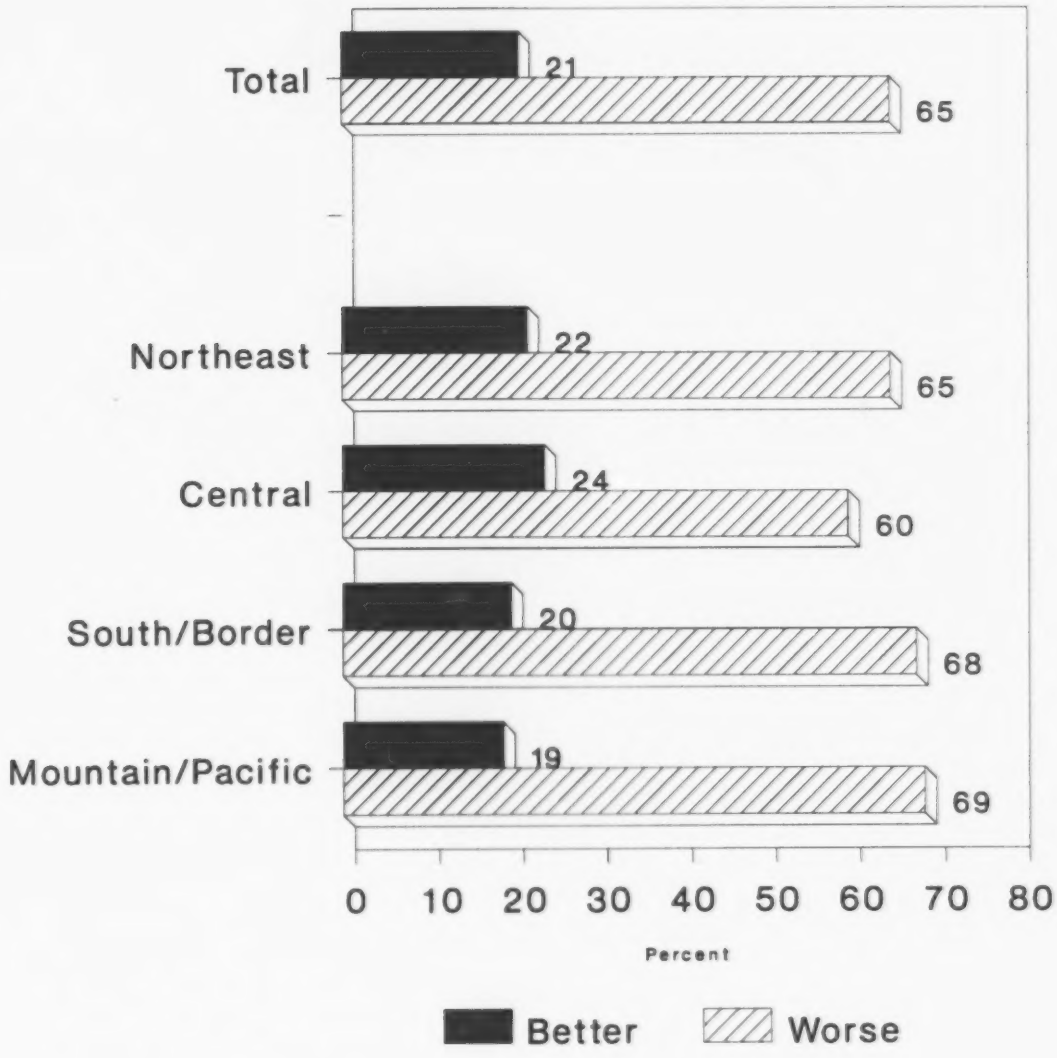


Figure 5

Worry About Problems Facing Children
National

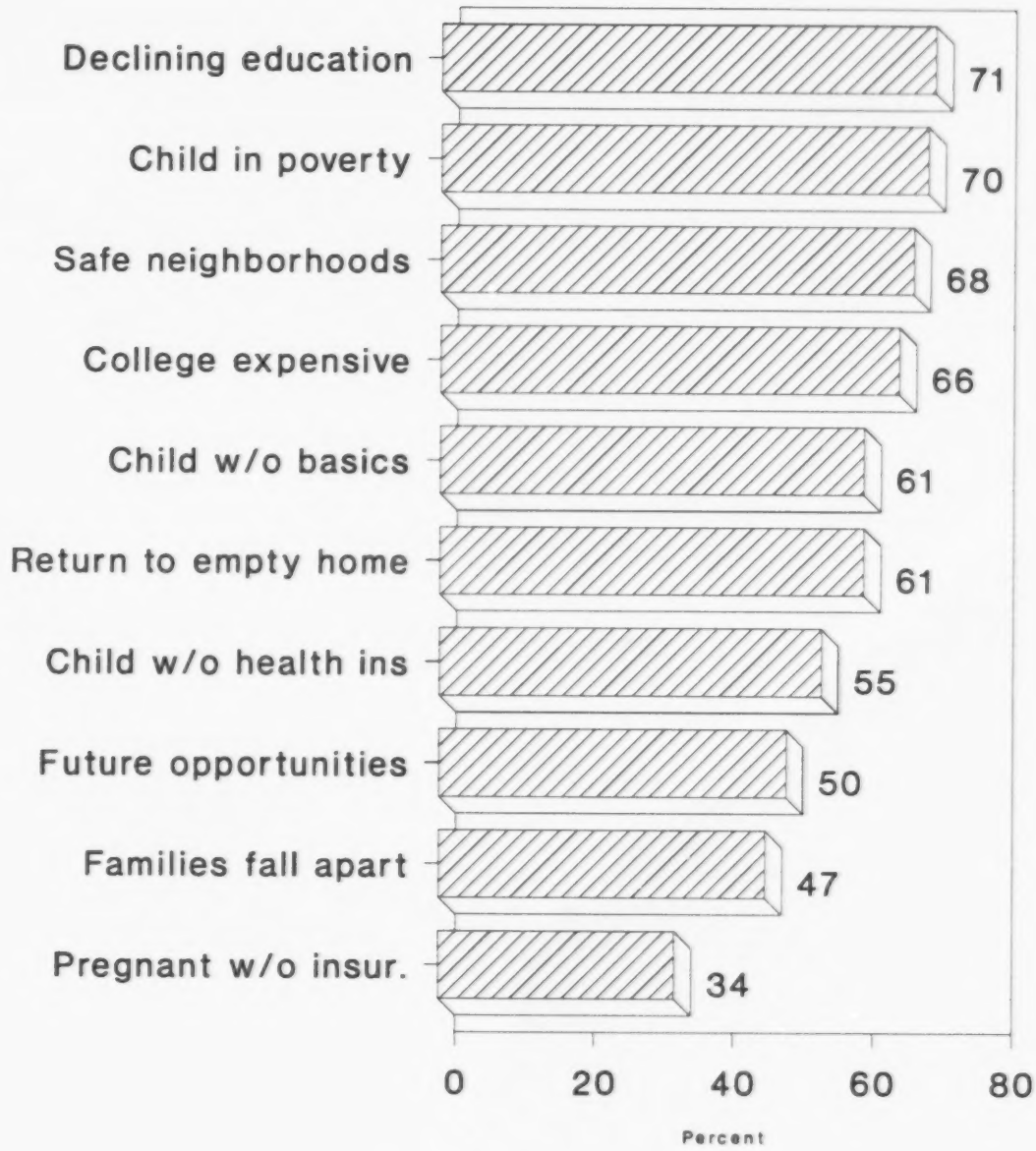


Figure 6

How Important Is It For Respondent's Own State To Rank In The Top 10 States In Education & Health For Children?

By Region

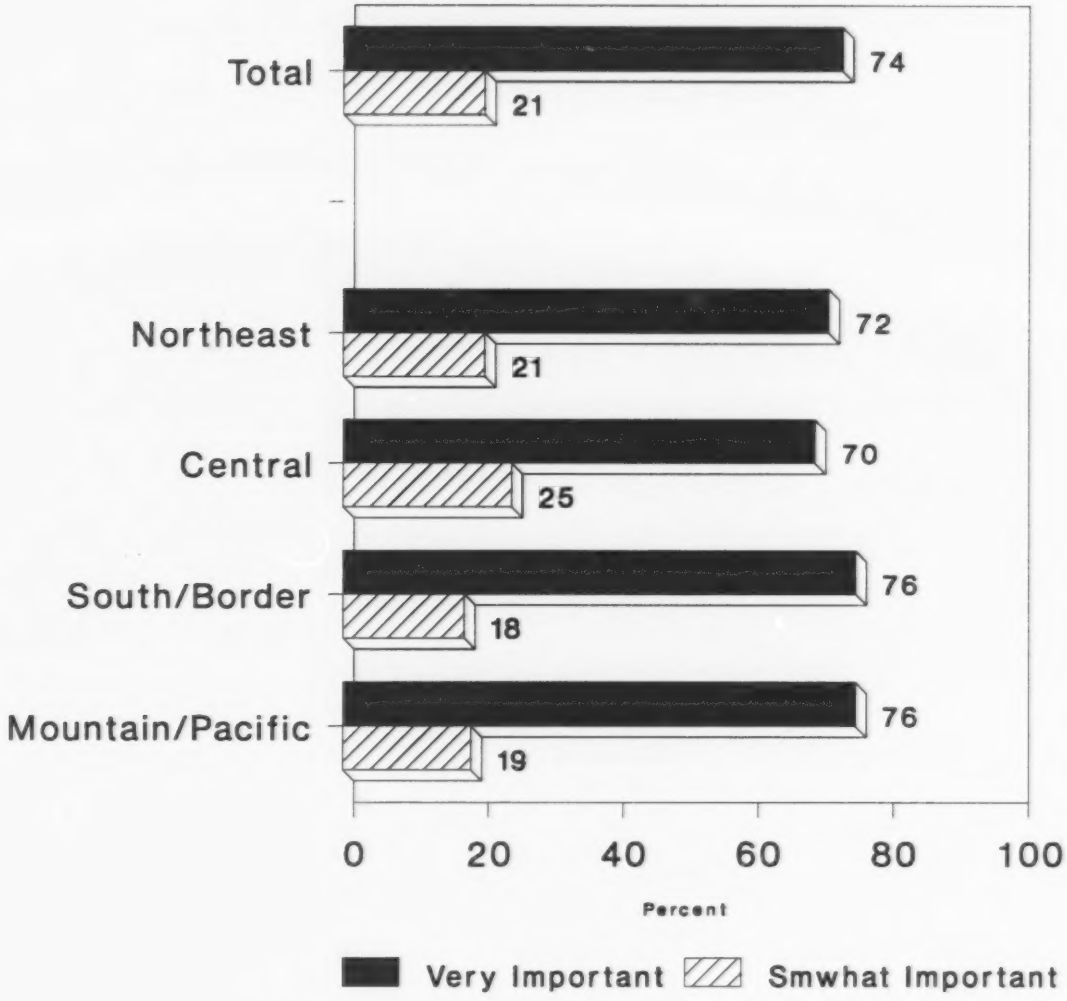


Figure 7

Support For Ways To Increase Funding For Children's Programs

National

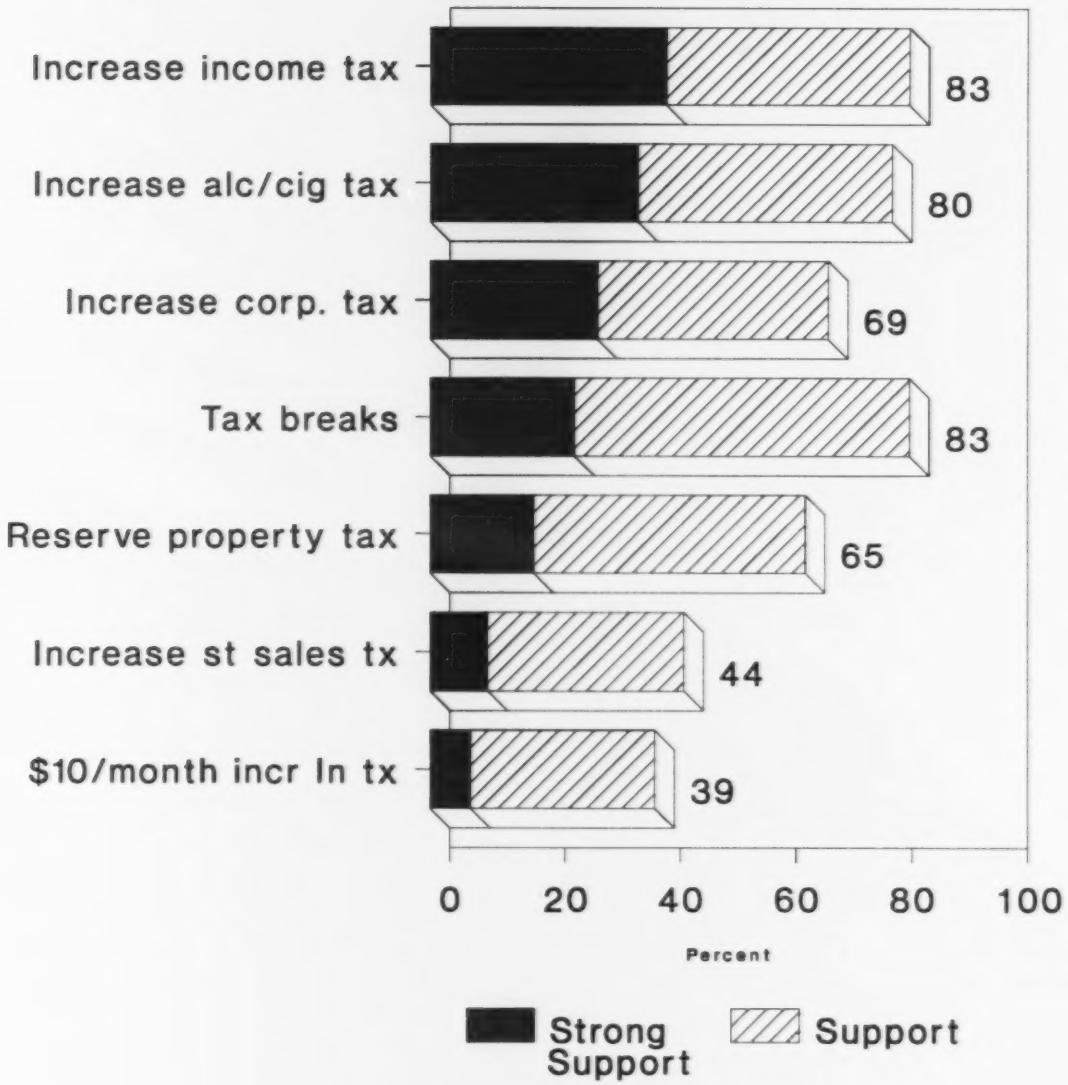


Figure 8

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

Survey Results - The State of the Child

1. First of all, are you registered to vote <u>at this address</u> in **(respondents state)**?

<u>If yes, continue</u>
<u>If no:</u> I'm sorry. Is there a registered voter at home I can speak to?

2. What are the chances of your voting in the election for President in 1992 – are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or don't you think you will vote?

almost certain	85
probably	9
50-50	3
will not vote	1
(don't know)	2

3. Now, I am going to read you a list of concerns that people have. Please tell me which one of these you personally worry about the most –

[ROTATE LIST]

• The economy and jobs	40
• The health and education of our children	22
• Crime and violence	12
• Taxes	6
• The environment	4
• Government spending	9
• Foreign policy	2
(don't know)	6

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

4. If you could tell the politicians in Washington how to spend your tax dollars, which of the following would you make the top priority? **(FOLLOW UP:)** What would be your second priority? Your Third?

TOP 3 PRIORITIES

(ROTATE RESPONSES)

- Lower taxes 32
- Provide national health insurance 47
- Fight crime and drugs 42
- Job training & economic development . . . 33
- Clean the environment 25
- Guarantee all children health care, quality education, safe neighborhoods, and economic security 61
- Aid to foreign countries 3
- Protecting social security 28
- Military spending 8

(don't know) 3

1ST PRIORITY

(ROTATE RESPONSES)

- Lower taxes 14
- Provide national health insurance 23
- Fight crime and drugs 11
- Job training & economic development . . . 11
- Clean the environment 4
- Guarantee all children health care, quality education, safe neighborhoods, and economic security 24
- Aid to foreign countries 0
- Protecting social security 8
- Military spending 2

(don't know) 3

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

2ND PRIORITY

(ROTATE RESPONSES)

- Lower taxes 8
- Provide national health insurance 14
- Fight crime and drugs 17
- Job training & economic development . . . 12
- Clean the environment 8
- Guarantee all children health care, quality education, safe neighborhoods, and economic security 21
- Aid to foreign countries 1
- Protecting social security 10
- Military spending 3

(don't know) 5

3RD PRIORITY

(ROTATE RESPONSES)

- Lower taxes 10
- Provide national health insurance 10
- Fight crime and drugs 15
- Job training & economic development . . . 10
- Clean the environment 13
- Guarantee all children health care, quality education, safe neighborhoods, and economic security 15
- Aid to foreign countries 1
- Protecting social security 11
- Military spending 3

(don't know) 12

5. Do you believe that children growing up today, overall have a tougher time than when you were growing up, have an easier time growing up, or there is not much difference?

Tougher 72
Easier 13
Not much difference 13
(don't know) 2

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

6. Thinking about children in this country, overall would you say the situation for children in the United States in the last 5 years has gotten much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse, or is getting much worse?

Much better	2
Somewhat better	18
Somewhat worse	36
Much worse	34
(Stayed the same) (**volunteered**)	7
(don't know)	3

7. What about for children just in this state, would you say the situation for children in this state in the last 5 years has gotten much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse, or is getting much worse?

Much better	3
Somewhat better	19
Somewhat worse	36
Much worse	29
(Stayed the same) (**volunteered**)	8
(don't know)	6

8. I'd like you to think about the condition of children in this state compared to children in other states. Generally, when it comes to the health and well-being of children, do you think that this state ranks in the top 5 state, in the top 10 states, in the top 20, in the middle, the bottom 20, the bottom 10 or the bottom 5 states?

Top 5 states	10
Top 10	14
Top 20	10
In the middle	30
Bottom 20	10
Bottom 10	5
Bottom 5	5
(don't know)	17

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

9. How important would it be to you for your state to rank in the top 10 states in health care and education for children – very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

Very important	74
Somewhat important	21
Not very important	2
Not at all important	2
(don't know)	2

10. How important is it to you that candidates for public office at all levels, including Presidential candidates, have a series of proposals on children's issues or a children's platform – would you say that is very important, somewhat important, not all that important, or not important at all.

Very important	59
Somewhat important	32
Not all that important	4
Not important at all	2
(don't know)	2

11. Would you be much more likely, more likely, less likely, or much less likely to vote for a candidate who supported increased spending for children's programs even if it meant an increase in your taxes?

Much more likely	19
More likely	48
Less likely	14
Much less likely	7
(No difference) **(volunteered)**	4
(don't know)	7

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

I'd like to read to you several suggestions that have been made to increase funding for children's programs. For each one, please tell me whether you would support or oppose it. If you strongly support or oppose, please tell me that also.

ROTATE Q.12 - Q.18

	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	D/k
12. A 1 percent increase in income tax for families earning over $250,000 a year, to increase funding for children's programs	41	42	10	4	3
13. A 1 cent increase in sales tax on the sale of alcoholic beverages	36	44	12	6	2
14. A 1 percent increase in taxes for corporations	29	40	19	5	6
15. An increase in your income taxes of $10 per month	7	32	34	22	5
16. A 1 cent increase in the state sales tax	10	34	34	17	4

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	D/k
17. A yearly review of tax breaks to see if some breaks could be changed to provide additional funding for children	25	58	9	3	6
18. Reserving 2.5 percent of **existing** property tax revenue to be spent only on programs for children	18	47	18	5	11

19. Reports estimate that 20% of American children have no health insurance. It would cost about 13 billion dollars, or about $100 per household per year, to provide health care to all uninsured children. Would you favor a $100 annual tax increase to specifically fund health care for all uninsured children, or would you oppose a tax increase to fund children's health care? **(FOLLOW UP:)** And do you feel strongly or not so strongly about that?

Favor strongly	19
Favor	26
Oppose	23
Oppose strongly	22
(don't know)	10

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

I am going to read you a list of possible problems facing the country. For each one, please tell me how often you really get upset about it – almost all the time, a lot, sometimes, or almost never.

Read each problem and circle the number for each answer

ROTATE Q.20-Q.23	Almost All the Time	A lot	Some-times	Almost Never	(Don't know)
20. That pregnant mothers aren't getting the health care they need to make sure their child is healthy. How often do you really get upset about that? Almost all the time, a lot, sometimes or almost never?	15	19	37	25	4
21. That families are falling apart and nobody is helping them stay together	22	25	33	17	3
22. That many children have no place to go after school and often go home to empty homes	29	32	27	11	2
23. That the quality of education is declining for our children in public schools	39	32	17	8	3

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

ROTATE Q.24-Q.29	Almost All the Time	A lot	Some-times	Almost Never	(Don't know)
24. That many families can not afford to buy health insurance for their children. How often do you really get upset about that. Almost all the time, a lot, sometimes or almost never?	28	27	30	13	3
25. That there are so many children living in poverty	34	36	22	6	2
26. That a college education is becoming too expensive for most families to afford	36	30	22	10	2
27. That children are not provided with the basics that they need in health care, food, and education	29	32	27	9	2

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

	Almost All the Time	A lot	Some-times	Almost Never	(Don't know)
28. That my children won't have opportunities to get ahead and have a good job and a home. How often do you really get upset about that? Almost all the time, a lot, sometimes or almost never?	25	25	24	21	4
29. That children are not safe in their own neighborhoods	38	30	22	8	2

Now, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. If you agree or disagree strongly, please say so.

ROTATE Q.30-Q.33	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	(Don't know)
30. Our political leaders are not doing enough to help solve the problems facing children today. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with that statement?	40	45	8	2	5

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	(Don't know)
31. All children should have a right to basic necessities like affordable health care, public education, protection from abuse and crime, and freedom from hunger and homelessness	51	44	2	0	2
32. Children should be able to see a doctor if they need to, even if their family can't afford one	53	45	1	0	1
33. Government should do everything it can to help families stay together, through tax relief to families with children, and policies that help, rather than burden, average working families	34	47	11	3	5

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

34. How confident are you that government will do what's right for children most of the time -- very confident, somewhat confident, or not at all confident?

very confident	4
somewhat confident	43
not at all confident	50
(don't know)	3

Finally, I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes.

35. Would you call yourself a strong (DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN) or a not very strong (DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN) and if not, do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic or Republican Party?

Strong Democrat	19
Weak Democrat	19
Lean Democrat	8
Independent	9
Lean Republican	6
Weak Republican	19
Strong Republican	13
(other)	2
(don't know)	4

[ALL RESPONDENTS]

36. Thinking in political terms, would you say that you are liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative or conservative?

Liberal	13
Somewhat liberal	13
Moderate	27
Somewhat conservative	20
Conservative	21
(don't know)	6

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

37. What is your age?

(READ)

18-24 years	8
25-30	11
31-39	20
40-44	11
45-49	9
50-60	15
61-64	6
over 64	18
(refused/don't know)	1

38. Are you married, single, separated, widowed, or divorced?

Married	63
Single	18
Separated/divorced	10
Widowed	8
(don't know)	0

39. (**If married male**) Does your wife work, half-time or more, outside the home or would you say that her work is mainly at home?

Employed	57
At home	41
(don't know)	2

40. (**If female respondent**) Do you have a paid job, half-time or more, outside your home or would you say that your work is mainly at home?

Employed	52
At home	47
(don't know)	2

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

41. What is your occupation?
(FOLLOW UP IF NECESSARY:) What exactly does that work involve?
(WRITE IN – RECORD IN PROPER CATEGORY UPON COMPLETION OF INTERVIEW)

Professional	20
WC Managerial	7
WC Clerical	7
Service employee	5
Govt employee	4
Farmer	1
Unskilled BC	3
Skilled BC	11
Other	19
Retired	20
(don't know)	1
(refused)	1

42. Do you have any children?

Yes **(Go To Q.43)**	75
No **(Go To Q.46)**	25
(don't know) **(Go To Q.46)**	1

43. **[IF Q.42 YES:]** What is the age of the youngest?

Under 6	20
6 to 9	11
10 to 13	10
14 to 18	11
19 to 23	9
24 to 30	16
Over 30	23

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

44. **[IF Q.43 UNDER 18:]** And do your children attend public school or private school?

Public	71
Private	10
Both	2
Neither	15
(don't know)	1

45. **[IF Q42 YES:]** And do you have any grandchildren?

Yes	44
No	55
(don't know)	1

46. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?
(**Circle**)

1 - 11th grade	11
High school graduate	29
Non-college post H.S.(e.g. tech)	3
Some college (jr. college)	25
College graduate	20
Post-graduate school	11
(don't know)	1

47. What is your race?

White	82
Black	8
Hispanic (Puerto Rican, Mexican-American, etc.)	6
(other)	2
(don't know/refused)	1

48. Would you please tell me into which of the following categories the total yearly income of your household falls – including every one in the household?

(READ)

Under $15,000	12
$15,000-$20,000	9
$20,000-$25,000	9
$25,000-$35,000	16
$35,000-$45,000	11
$45,000-$50,000	7
$50,000-$75,000	11
Over $75,000	9
(Retired)	4
(refused/don't know)	13

Frequency Questionnaire: **National**, November 1991

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME **[TERMINATE]**
(TURN PAGE TO COMPLETE SURVEY FORM)

FILL OUT ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION
AFTER COMPLETING INTERVIEW

i. Phone # __/__/___

ii. Sex of respondent
male 47
female 53

iii. State code

_ _ _ _ _
[enter 5x digit code]

iv. Date __/__/__
[enter 6 digit code: MM/DD/YY]

Interviewer initials _____

v. Sample
Base 1
Oversample 2

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Greenberg-Lake: The Analysis Group, Inc. and The Tarrance Group designed and administered this survey which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers. The survey, conducted from November 15-25th, reached over 6200 adults nationwide, 18 years or older who are registered to vote. The total number of surveys included individual projects within certain states. So to achieve a sample representative of the entire nation, those states which were oversampled for their own individual statewide surveys were weighted down, for a total of 1083 interviews.

Respondents were selected using a Random Digit Dial method stratified by county for the state.

The margin of error for this survey when analyzing results from the base weighted sample, not including the statewide oversamples, is plus or minus 3.1 points. Thus, if 52 percent of the respondents in this sample oppose "a 1 cent increase in the state sales tax" it is very likely (95 times out of 100) that the percentage for the entire population would fall between 48.9 percent and 55.1 percent. The sampling error for smaller subgroups in the sample is larger according to the size of the subgroup being examined.

PERCENTAGES NEAR

SAMPLE SIZE	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
1000	1.9	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.5	1.9
950	1.9	2.5	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.5	1.9
900	2.0	2.6	3.0	3.2	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.5	3.4
850	2.0	2.7	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.0
800	2.1	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.1
750	2.2	2.9	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.3	2.9	2.2
700	2.2	3.0	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.0	2.2
650	2.3	3.1	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.1	2.3
600	2.4	3.2	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.2	2.4
550	2.5	3.3	3.8	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.8	3.3	2.5
500	2.6	3.5	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.5	2.6
450	2.8	3.7	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.2	3.7	2.8
400	2.9	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.5	3.9	2.9
350	3.1	4.2	4.8	5.1	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.2	3.1
300	3.4	4.5	5.2	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.5	3.4
250	3.7	5.0	5.7	6.1	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.0	3.7
225	3.9	5.2	6.0	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.0	5.2	3.9
200	4.2	5.5	6.4	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.4	5.5	4.2
150	4.8	6.4	7.3	7.8	8.0	7.8	7.3	6.4	4.8
100	5.9	7.8	9.0	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.0	7.8	5.9
50	8.3	11.1	12.7	13.6	13.9	13.6	12.7	11.1	8.3
25	11.8	15.7	18.0	19.2	19.6	19.2	18.0	15.7	11.8

The State of the Child is part of a family of reports researched for NACHRI and its members by the bipartisan polling firm of Greenberg/Lake, The Analysis Group; and The Tarrance Group. In addition to the national report, individual profiles are available for the states of Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. Contact NACHRI for referral to the publishers of these reports.

The National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) is a nonprofit association concerned with children's health needs and the people who take care of them. Founded in 1968, NACHRI maintains extensive data on children's health in general as well as descriptive data on its 114 members in the U.S. and Canada.

NACHRI is located at 401 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 703/684-1355 Fax: 703/684-1589.

The Coalition for America's Children is a new educational alliance of national, state and local non-profit organizations working together to illustrate the serious problems faced by American children and to elevate their concerns to the top of the public policy agenda in the 1992 elections and beyond.

Through nonpartisan publications and activities, the Coalition educates the public on children's issues, urges candidates and policymakers of all persuasions and parties to take positions responsive to children's needs, and works to empower an informed electorate to regularly debate the issues and options and hold public officials accountable to children.

The steering committee of the Coalition includes: American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association of School Administrators, American Federation of Teachers, Association of Child Advocates, Association of Junior Leagues International, Benton Foundation, Child Welfare League of America, Children Now, Florida Center for Children and Youth, Food Research and Action Center, National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Black Child Development Institute, and Save the Children.

For further information about the Coalition, write c/o the M.B. Fund, 1710 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, 4th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036.